Nuggets Of News

April 2005

News, Photographs and Events of the Gold Hill Historical Society, Est. 1986
Meetings are held the third Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM at the Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon
(except August when the annual potluck is held at noon on the third Sunday)
Mailing address: PO Box 26, Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026 Telephone: (541) 855-1182 Fax: (541)776-4263
Museum Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 12 noon to 4 p.m., except holidays
Admission FREE, donations accepted

ELECTIONS

The January election of officers returned the 2004 slate of officers to their elected posts. Each one graciously volunteered to retain their duties for the year 2005. With membership support and appreciation, they'll continue to realize how grateful we are for the time and effort they put forth in their responsible positions.
Please join in welcoming back **President Clare Moore, Vice President Marge Martin, Secretary Lyn Parker**, and **Treasurer Maureen Smith**. Joining **Ted Wharton** and **Janet Sessions** on the Board of Directors this year is **Rex Parker**. A big SALUTE to all.

NEW PROJECT??

There is a retraction on the prior newsletter's piece on a professional video/DVD starring the town of Gold Hill. This project has NOT yet been contracted out. Prior to signing on the dotted line, further research into this undertaking is necessary. When funding an expensive venture such as this, prudence leads the way. Watch for an update in a future newsletter.

OH DEAR!

An apparent artifact theft from the GHHS Museum leaves an unbelievable void. A small gold nugget from the original Gold Hill lode, donated from the Chavner family estate, has disappeared from one of the locked display cases. It is of such small value dollar wise, compared to its importance as an irreplaceable part of local history. Security has since been "beefed up" at the museum, but that does not undo the harm already done.

GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Our garden runneth over with colors of the rainbow, thanks to peonies donated by the Wharton family, and flower seeds from the Moore's. Even our mayor, Sherry Young, has been working in the museum yard, landscaping the future. As beauty fades from the seasonal bulb flowers, new colors will continue to highlight the peaceful Memorial Garden area.

flowersflowersflowers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

I wish to thank everyone for your generous donations this year. Memberships alone brought in $225 to date. That is so helpful, as most of you know we may not get any Jackson County funding within a couple of years. Then we'll be totally on our own. Those of you who haven't sent in your dues yet, this will be your last newsletter. We hope you will continue as members. Even if you can't come over and help in person, we love having your support. Thanks everyone!

Most of the "active" members are back on our feet. We're down to one regular member recuperating from a hip replacement. In recent months we've had back surgery, heart bypasses, foot and eye surgeries, plus the usual aches and pains. We were running low on volunteers to man the museum, but as always, others jumped in and helped keep the museum open.

We recently were given some peony plants. They were planted and are already growing. The daffodils were so pretty this spring - this was the second year they have bloomed. As soon as the weather really warms up, there will be some flower seeds sprinkled in that same bed. Hopefully, it will be pretty for this summer. It's hard not to plant now, but if we did, I'm sure a frost would come and ruin the plants.

See the piece elsewhere in this newsletter on our participation in the big Easter Egg Hunt at Patrick School. This is our first effort to help with this project. I hope it will become an annual event for us.

Charter member Sharon Olson and I have been working for months sorting through Mary Kell's donated newspaper articles. Mary collected them during the 60's while a correspondent for the Medford Mail Tribune. What a wonderful legacy. Once we get them organized, we'll put some of the articles in the newsletter for people to re-enjoy.

Sincerely,

Clare Moore, President

Working for the future

CEMETERY NEWS UPDATE

The Hays Cemetery access road fencing project has been completed. Thanks to the generosity of the Oregon commission on Historic Cemeteries/Oregon Parks and Recreation Department with their $2,250 grant, the drive up to the pioneer cemetery is no longer a maze of pasture gates and livestock droppings. A culvert at the bottom of the gully and gravel for the roadbed are still needed. (Any volunteers???) That would allow for vehicular access regardless of weather. Also, the GHHS funded a replacement fence for one side of the cemetery, after finding horse manure and hoof prints around some historic gravesites and tomb stones. By combining the two fencing projects into one, with Quality Fencing, GHHS's portion came to $670. Sexton Marge Martin and her volunteer work crew spent a couple sunshiny days repainting the cemetery sign, digging out rotted sign posts, pouring cement, setting new sign posts, and re-hanging the sign. ***A spring cleanup day for Hays Cemetery has been scheduled for Sunday, April 10th***. Volunteers are to meet at the GHHS Museum at 10 a.m. and carpool to the cemetery site, as parking is limited, especially if the ground is soggy. Bring yard tools/a lunch and enjoy some real local history. (No electricity, water, or restroom facilities on site.)

Our other local historic cemetery, ***Rock Point, has also planned a spring clean-up day.*** Due to the fire hazard of high, dry weeds, this annual event is scheduled for TWO weeks prior to Memorial Day, instead of the usual one week prior. On ***Saturday, May 14th***, beginning at 8 a.m., volunteers are encouraged to bring mowers, weeders, and any other yard tools necessary to aid in clearing overgrown areas. Water and restroom will available on site. Bring a potluck dish and participate in the annual feast of the tired, weary, and dusty, scheduled to commence at noon. Come view the marvelous improvements spearheaded by Sexton Marge Martin and Joyce Wayland since last year's successful cleanup day. Wow!

SUNSHINE & SYMPATHY

Rex and Lyn Parker remain leaders in the parade of health challenged volunteers. Good health still beckons as they continue to man the museum and work on other projects, as time and health allows. Our volunteers are a precious valued commodity.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The GHHS, Gold Hill Grange, Fire District No. 3, Gold Hill Christian Church, and Patrick School PTO combined their talents and manpower to sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on March 26th at Patrick School. Ray's Market donated the eggs and storage of dyed eggs after Grange members dyed them. There were plastic surprise-filled eggs, and grand prizes of large stuffed Easter Bunnies. Grand Prizewinners were: ages 1-3 = Sara Marshall, 4-6 = Johnny Hulseman, and 7-9 = Nicholas Gambatese. There were five special prizes donated per age group, producing an abundance of youthful smiles to warm the adult hearts.

FROM THE DOCKET, TOWN OF GOLD HILL, OREGON, from 6/17/1895 to 2/21/1931

compiled by Sharon Olson and Clare Moore

David Force gave the Docket book artifact to the museum. His father, Bud Force, kept the book for many years. He told his son to not return the book until after his death, as there were some names in it that did not need to be known at that time. There are nine John Doe arrests listed. As the story goes, these people were prominent citizens of the town, and did not need their names in the public records.

There are some interesting charges in the book that reveal the unique times of Gold Hill's ever day live. Following are the arrests by Gold Hill Police during the period from 1895 to 1924: Assault and battery/7, concealed weapon/2, cruelty of animals/1, curfew violation/2, disorderly conduct/14, disturbing the peace/13, drunk and disorderly/101, fighting/27, gambling/1, hogs loose in the streets/3, immoral practice/1, impounded animal/1, no business license/2, none payment/2, reckless driving/1, resisting arrest/1, riding a bicycle illegally/2, running a disorderly house/1, speeding/5.

There is a very interesting account of the police department, run by Terry Talent, from June 2, 1924 to May 5, 1925. The story goes that Gold Hill was running out of money, since the fire of 1915. Terry Talent came to the city fathers with a proposition. He could make them the richest town in the state, if they would hire him as a police officer and give him 10% of the fines. Here is an account of his arrests: drunk/1, drunken driving/1, illegal passing/1, no driver's license/wrong car license on vehicle/3, no parking/1, and possession of cigarettes/1. Now

get this one = SPEEDING/***526!*** Officer Egge worked from 5/12 to 6/06/1925, which is less than one month. He issued 78 speeding tickets. This in the amount of money brought in by fines of Officers Talent and Egge = $7,065.50. I think that Gold Hill probably was the richest town in the state for that period.

It was said that there was a road sign posted at the top of the Siskiyou Mountain that read, "DO NOT STOP AT GOLD HILL. DO NOT SPEED IN GOLD HILL. DO NOT SHOP IN GOLD HILL" or words to that effect.

Here are a few more interesting arrests listed. On March 5, 1896, the town of Gold Hill charged Michael Chavner with 3 hogs running at large upon the streets of Gold Hill, contrary to law. Impounded by order of town recorder. March 5th defendant on same date reclaimed said hogs and paid fine of $1.50, J.H. Griffis, town recorder. There were a few other instances of the same offense by others.

Marshal E. Ray impounded one black horse branded "D" on his right hip, on the 10th day of March, notices were duly posted as required by law. On the 16th day of March, at 2 o'clock the owner of said horse, not having called for him, Marshal E. Ray put him up for sale as advertised and sold him to the highest bidder, Mr. F.M. Parker for the sum of five dollars. This amount not being sufficient to cover the costs. J.H. Griffis, Recorder.

There were 2 or 3 cases for riding bicycles on the sidewalks of Gold Hill. In several cases the defendants had to work off their fines by hauling gravel for the city streets. Drunken and disorderly, the defendant was charged $20 plus costs. In lieu of cash, his watch was deposited with the promise to pay within 20 days.

October 31, five males were arrested for curfew violations. They were admonished and told to go home.

Most of the fines listed were under $10 and the highest was $35 for being drunk and disorderly.

Some of the charges by the recorder were as follows: making compiaint/.50, issuing warrant/.50, docketing entry/.25, issuing subpoena/.25, swearing witness/.10 and taxing cost/.50. Marshal charges were as follows: making arrest/$1, attending court/.50, serving subpoena/.25, and mileage/.10.

There are many more informative, interesting entries in the old docket book, which is on display in the main room of the museum. Come by and peruse to your leisure. Or, wait for the next quarterly newsletter (if your dues are up-to-date) and we'll bring you more samples from the old pages.

Gold Hill Historical Society
Membership/Renewal/Volunteer Form

Name_____

Street Address_____

Mailing Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Telephone_____

E-mail address?_____

Family Membership/$10 annually

_____New

_____Renewal

_____Contribution

Return form to:
Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue/PO Box 26
Gold Hill, OR 97525

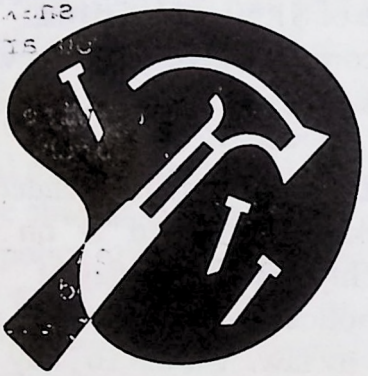
_____I would like to volunteer:

_____help at special events
_____a few hours
_____an occasional day
_____a regular schedule
_____monthly
_____weekly

_____be a museum greeter
_____help inventory artifacts
_____enter data into computer
_____help with yard work
_____other
_____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Clare Moore
Vice-President – Marge Martin
Secretary – Lyn Parker
Treasurer – Maureen Smith
Ted Wharton
Rex Parker
Janet Sessions



SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

WARNING

DANGER WHEN HIKING IN THE WOODS

With spring just around the corner and wild mushroom season approaching, the urge to go hiking in the woods strikes both young and old. Those who go prepared, both physically and mentally, get the most out of such a venture. Following are some of the dangers to be aware of in order to assure a pleasant and enjoyable outing.

1. **BAD WEATHER:** Going prepared can make a miserable trip into an enjoyable one.

2. **WATER:** Use caution crossing streams or gullies. Innocent looking ponds can easily trap you. Carry drinking water as most streams are now polluted.

3. **OLD MINES:** Stay out of old tunnels or shafts. Timbers can be rotted and ladders unsafe.

4. **TRAILS:** Choose trails that have been used, rather than cutting cross country or bush-whacking.

5. **EXPLOSIVES:** Stay out of dilapidated abandoned buildings or shacks. Old explosives left by miners are unsafe to handle or disturb.

6. **SNAKES:** Although seldom seen, rattlesnakes are still a menace in Southern Oregon. You are more likely to get bitten while trying to kill a snake. Best to avoid them. They are as frightened of you as you are of them.

7. **INSECTS:** You are wise to carry a repellent. Ticks can carry lyme disease, and a batch of mosquitoes or gnats can spoil an outing.

8. **EMERGENCY:** Even on short hikes, carry a belt pouch or fanny pack with emergency food and first aid items. Also, a map and a compass can be wise companions.

9. **COMPANY:** The urge is great to strike out alone and enjoy the solitude, but a hiking buddy can be a real asset if problems occur. In either case, leave behind instructions or route plans.

10. **COMMUNICATION:** In this present day of radios and cell phones, it is extremely wise to go so prepared.

DO YOUR DUES?

Annual membership comes due each January 1st. Family membership is still only $10.00 per year. If you haven't already paid your dues, please remember the good deeds those funds generate. Thank you to all who have already paid their dues for 2005.

Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 10th = Hays Cemetery Cleanup. Meet at museum at 10 a.m. Bring a lunch and water.

April 20th ***May 18th and June 15th*** GHHS monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., at the museum.

May 14th = Rock Point Cemetery Annual Pre-Memorial Day Cleanup. Begins at cemetery at 8:00 a.m. Potluck fun, too.

Questions? Call the Gold Hill Museum at (541) 855-1182.